CLAIMS:

1. An electroluminescent lighting device comprising an elongate flexible body having an inner part and an outer part, said outer part being of light-transmissive material, an elongate multi-layer electroluminescent element including a pair of co-extending conductive regions and extending along the inner body part, a pair of elongate conductors extending along the inner body part for supplying electrical power to the electroluminescent element, said conductors being separated from the electroluminescent element by at least a portion of the inner body part, and a plurality of flexible contact elements located at intervals along the inner body part for electrically connecting the conductive regions of the electroluminescent element to the conductors, each said contact element having a first part in contact with a respective said conductive region and a second part extending through said portion of the inner body part and contacting a respective said conductor.

2. The device of claim 1 wherein the electroluminescent element is supported by the inner body part.

3. The device of claim 1 wherein the inner body part is formed with a channel holding the electroluminescent element therein.

4. The device of claim 3 wherein the channel has an open side having a reduced width which is smaller than the width of the electroluminescent element.

5. The device of claim 1 wherein the electroluminescent element has a flat cross-section and opposite edges, along which edges the conductive regions extend respectively in a continuous manner.

6. The device of claim 1 wherein the conductors are embedded within the inner body part.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein the conductors are provided by respective stranded metal wires.

8. The device of claim 1 wherein the flexible contact elements are formed as a conductive resilient insert.

9. The device of claim 8 wherein at least some of the inserts are of conductive rubber

10. The device of claim 1 wherein at least some of the flexible contact elements are formed of metalwire.

11. The device of claim 10 wherein the wires are soldered to the elongate conductors.

12. The device of claim 10 wherein the wires are clipped

through the conductive regions of the electroluminescent element.

13. A method of forming the electroluminescent lighting device of claim 1, the method comprising:
cutting a plurality of access cavities in the inner body part, inserting a conductive rubber piece into each cavity to come into contact with one of said elongate conductors and installing the electroluminescent element into the inner body part so that each of said elongate conductors and one of said conductive regions of the electroluminescent element comes into contact with one or more of said conductive rubber pieces.

14. A method of forming the electroluminescent lighting device of claim 1, the method comprising:
taking the inner body part and cutting a plurality of access cavities therein to expose portions of each elongate conductor and said conductive regions, the method further comprising attaching respective pieces of flexible wire to each exposed portion of each elongate conductor and attaching each piece of flexible wire to a corresponding exposed portion of the respective conductive region.

15. The method of claim 14 wherein the pieces of flexible wire are soldered to each said exposed portion of each elongate conductor.

16. The method of claim 14 wherein each piece of flexible wire is soldered to a clip that is clipped through said corresponding exposed portions of the respective conductive regions.

17. The method of claim 13 wherein the outer body part is extruded onto the inner body part to form the complete electroluminescent lighting device.

18. An electroluminescent lighting device comprising:

an elongate flexible body of light-transmissive material,

an elongate multi-layer electroluminescent element extending along and/or within the body and including a pair of co-extendsive elongate conductive regions,

a pair of elongate conductors extending along and within the body for supplying electrical power to the electroluminescent element, and

wherein each elongate conductor provides electrical power to the electroluminescent element via a respective one of said conductive regions throughout the length of the electroluminescent lighting device.

19. The device of Claim 18 wherein said elongated conductors are each attached to a respective said conductive region by electrically conductive glue.

20. The device of Claim 19 wherein the conductive glue is

flexible.

21. The device of Claim 18 wherein each said elongate conductor is in direct contact with a respective said conductive region.

22. The device of Claim 18 wherein the device is formed as a co-extrusion wherein the body, electroluminescent strip and the elongate conductors are extruded simultaneously.

23. The device of Claim 19 wherein the conductive glue is co-extruded with the device.

24. The device of Claim 18 wherein the electroluminescent element has a flat cross-section and opposite edges, along which edges the conductive regions extend respectively in a continuous manner.

25. The device of Claim 18 wherein the conductors are provided by respective metal strips of rectangular cross-section.

26. The device of Claim 25 wherein the metal strips are of copper.

27. The device of claim 12 further comprising a third elongate

conductor positioned in between said pair of elongate conductors, the third conductor being in electrical contact with the electroluminescent element.